

Untold Story Leads From Montana



Amtrak station, Glasgow, Montana.

FALL 1999 INSIDE THIS ISSUE



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THE EMPIRE BUILDER

CHUGGING ALONG ON MONTANA'S HI-LINE

limb aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder for a celebration. For 70 years this train has hauled passengers across the 2,256-mile route from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest. In Montana, the Empire Builder travels across the northern border of the state known as the Hi-line.

"Train travelers see a stretch of Montana that many miss," says Roberta Barsted with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce. "I don't think people realize how beautiful and diverse the landscape is up on Montana's Hi-line."

The diverse landscape on Montana's Hi-line is dotted with rolling hills, open prairie, jagged mountains and lush forests. Passengers traveling east to west are welcomed at stops in Wolf Point, Glasgow, Malta, Havre, Shelby, Cut Bank, Browning, Glacier National Park, Essex, Belton-West Glacier and Whitefish

In 1929, this train was named in honor James J. Hill, the founder of the Great

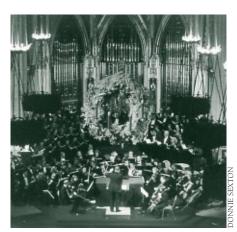
Northern Railroad. Hill became known as the Empire Builder not only for the transcontinental railroad that he built, but also for his vision and leadership in the development of the Great Northern states.

Through the years this popular train has carried homesteaders and travelers to a land of great opportunity and beauty. It also opened up a whole new vacation paradise for many travelers by introducing them to Glacier National Park. Today, the Empire Builder is the only Amtrak train with door-to-door service to a national park.

Barsted notes that while the Empire Builder is a wonderful means of travel for vacationers to the Big Sky, it is also the only means of public transportation east to west for those living in the small communities on Montana's Hi-line. "It's really convenient; I hope the train continues to operate so everyone can enjoy the ride."

For more information on the Empire Builder call Amtrak at 1-800-872-7245 **

Making Music: Montana's Symphony Orchestras



Helena Symphony Society concert at Helena Cathedral, Helena, Montana,

It's true, Montanans love their country music, but in many parts of the state, the violin and cello are replacing the fiddle and steel guitar. The seven communities of Billings, Butte, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula all host symphony orchestras. Both the Butte and Billings orchestras are closing in on their

"There is a lot of musical talent found throughout Montana," says John Barsness, call John Barsness at (406) 585-9551 **

Executive Director of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras. "For these musicians, playing in these orchestras is not their primary job, it is a labor of love." Barsness explains that while the symphonies all have full-time music directors, they cooperate among themselves by sharing musicians and sheet music for performances.

The musical arrangements these symphonies perform range from baroque composers to the Big Band era of Duke Ellington to theme music from The Horse Whisperer and A River Runs Through It. Last March, in commemoration of their 40th anniversary, the Great Falls Symphony and Choir debuted a specially commissioned composition, "From the Journals of Lewis and Clark." Montana native Daniel Bukvich composed it.

Barsness explains that the love of the symphony isn't restricted to Montana's largest cities; the small towns of Miles City and Scobey both have chamber orchestras. He also adds, in order to spread the music, many of the orchestras perform outreach concerts in the rural areas.

The Montana symphony season runs September to May. For more information

Montana's Other Symphony

It's a crisp clear autumn morning. A thin layer of frost covers your tent. As the rising sun casts a pink tinge on the horizon, you lie in your sleeping bag slowly waking up. Suddenly, a shrill noise echoes from the woods. You think, oh no, those Bigfoot stories in Montana are true!

No need for alarm, this wild call isn't after you, it's after female or cow elk. This is the mating call or bugle of a bull elk. From late August through early October this "haunting" symphony can be heard throughout Montana's wildlands.

According to Jodi Bishop with the Missoula-based Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, bull elk are polygamous. In order to attract cows, or harems for mating, the bull has to let the ladies know that he's their best choice and at the same time, warn the other bulls to stay away from his turf.

While the Yellowstone Park area is a feast for your ears, eastern Montana's 1.1 million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge also provides some spectacular elk viewing.

According to CMR Refuge Manager, Mike Hedrick, when Lewis and Clark passed through eastern and central Montana in 1804, elk were a common sight. Unfortunately, unregulated hunting had elim-



inated elk from the region by the earl 1900s However, Hedrick explains that in 1951 and 1952, wildlife agents and ranchers rounded up 161 elk from Yellowstone National Park and transported them to the CMR. This reintroduction led to the thriving elk herd of approximately 3,000 animals present today. Hedrick suggests the best time to view bugling elk is early morning or late evening.

So if you happen to be in a rut, why not head to the hills and listen to a little bit of nature's music. For more information on elk viewing call Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at 1-800-CALL-ELK or the CMR at (406) 538-8706 **

A Haunting Good Time.

MONTANA'S GHOST TOWNS



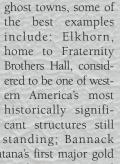
1850s, prospectors struck gold in Montana. By the turn of the century gold and silver mining was booming and thousands flocked to the "Treasure State" to

settle in and make their fortunes. When the minerals went bust, the State Park, the site of Montana's first major gold people went with it. Leaving their towns for dead. strike; Garnet, which has more than 30 preserved Today, some would believe these towns have lost buildings and a site where snowmobilers and

"When you visit a Montana ghost town you can feel the spirits of the past here. It's not neceslore," says John DeHaas with the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society. DeHass explains that dence of the old hotels, saloons and outhouses the wilderness, it's just a different type.

you have some idea of what life might have been like 130 years ago.

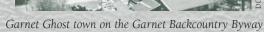
While Montana is dotted with over 60



their glitter, but for others they hold historic treasures. skiers can rent cabins; and Virginia City and Nevada City, two authentically preserved and restored mining camps from the 1860's gold rush. sarily supernatural spirits, but the spirits of western And for museum lovers, the town of Philipsburg features the Ghost Town Hall of Fame.

According to DeHaas, many people travel to when you discover a ghost town you really get to Montana to explore the state's vast wilderness. A use your imagination. By seeing the physical evivisit to a Montana ghost town is also experiencing

For more information on Montana's ghost towns call the Montana Historical Society at (406) 444-2694 **



How to Visit Montana From Miles Away



Looking for a great travel story? Want to find out about the latest events under the Big Sky? Interested in finding the best places to hike, bike, raft, ski, camp, horseback ride...(You get

Your answers are only a click away. Travel Montana's website, VISITMT.COM, has a new look. The revamped site is designed to make searching for a Montana travel

experience fun, easier and more informative.

Some of the exciting new features include the ability to send electronic postcards with Montana photos or graphics to friends and family and to e-mail Montana information from each page on the site. VISITMT.COM also showcases over 5,000 photos of Montana's tourism-related services, attractions and communities, as well as highlighting an extensive calendar of events from across the state.

Flathead State Park is "Yurt" Kind of Place

Seeking an alternative to pitching a tent? Why not roam to western Montana's Flathead Lake State Park and experience a yurt. A yurt? Described as a "Mongolian tipi," this ancient sphere-shaped structure has been used by nomadic tribes in Siberia for centuries.

"This is our pilot yurt," says Debbie Cheek with Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "It allows visitors a chance to experience the outdoors without sleeping on the ground." According to Cheek, since these unique dwellings have been designed to withstand intense winds and retain heat in the winter, it is a natural fit in Montana.

Standing 10 ft. tall and 20 ft. wide, the yurt can sleep up to six people. It is equipped with most comforts of home including electricity, heat and a propane barbecue. Campers need only bring along sleeping bags, cooking utensils and something in which to store water.

Cheek explains that if the yurt proves to be popular, FWP hopes to construct others throughout the state. The yurt costs \$35 per night from May to September and \$25 from October to April. But, if this isn't "yurt" style, Montana's state parks also rent cabins year-round and tipis in the summer months. For more information on yurt rental call (406) 751-4577. **

Montanas Historic Home on the Range: Grant-Kohrs Ranch

Twenty-seven years ago, the Grant-Kohrs According to Schetzsle, visitors can see a Civil Park System. The ranch was set aside for the clank of a blacksmith's hammer and taste

purpose of providing "an understanding of the frontier cattle era of the nation's history."

First settled in the 1860s by cattle baron Johnny Grant and later purchased by Conrad Kohrs, this presentday historic site was once headquarters for a cattle empire that spread over 10 million acres across Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and Canada.

"When someone travels to Grant-Kohrs

they'll experience all the sights, sounds and Guided tours by costumed interpreters are smells of what a frontier ranch was like," says Tony Schetzsle, Park Superintendent.

Ranch, located outside of Deer Lodge, became War ambulance that carried the wounded a National Historic Site within the National back from the battle of the Big Hole, hear the

> some beans that are cooked over a roaring campfire.

Visitors can also peek into the Grant-Kohrs homestead. This 28-room mansion contains over 26,000 original furnishings of Augusta and Conrad Kohrs. View the desk where Conrad sat while reading a letter he received from Teddy Roosevelt or stand beneath the impressive 6-footwide Longhorn mount the "cattle king" received as a gift from his Chicago stockbroker.

Take a step back in time with a visit to Grant-Kohrs Ranch. Open year-round.

provided. For more information call the Grant-Kohrs Ranch at (406) 846-2070.



20-24

22-26

Native American Awareness Week-

Hoffman Challenge—Travelling Exhibit of 50 Wallhangings–Kalispell 257-5799

Pablo 675-0160

Note: Mo	ntana's area code is 406.				
	SEPTEMBER	23–26	Laurel Herbstfest-Laurel 628-7852	19	Downtown Helena Fall Art 447-1535
1 - 6 1 - 6	Milk River Wagon Train–Malta 654-1796 Ravalli County Fair–Hamilton 363-3411	24–26	Flathead Valley Annual Quilt Show–Kalispell 257-4612	19–20	Annual Holiday Market Pla
3–4	Saco Fun Days–Saco 527-3218 or 527-3265	24–26	Sandcreek Clydesdales Annual Wagon	10 12/21	543-8798
3–5	Living History–Fairview 747-5259	25	Train– Jordan 557-2865 Pasture Golf Tournament–Acton 248-9295	19–12/31	Miniatures: The Little Pictu Bits and Beads–Miles City
1	Buffalo Days Celebration–Gardiner 848-7971	25–26	Northeast Montana Threshing Bee and	20	232-0635 Bigfork Elves Decorate for
1	Chief Plenty Coups Day of Honor-Pryor		Antique Show–Culbertson 787-5265	20	Christmas-Bigfork 837-588
	252-1289 Chili Cook-Off–Big Sky 995-2742 or		OCTOBER	20	Cut Bank Winter Festival–873-4041
	995-2472	1 1–2	Artwalk Downtown–Billings 252-0122 Northeast Montana Fall Festival and Trade	20-21	Holiday Antique Show–Gro 761-4684
•	Fromberg Labor Day Celebration– Fromberg 668-7383		Show–Wolf Point 653-1900	20-21	American Cup Competition
ŀ	Wild West Day-Bigfork 837-5861	1–2 1–3	Oktoberfest–Great Falls 771-8580 Port Polson Annual Oktoberfest and Harvest	22–1/2	494-2329 Christmas at the Mass May
- 5	Labor Day Wagon Train–Culbertson 787-5821	1-3	Festival–Polson 883-4345	22-1/2	Christmas at the Moss Mar 256-5100
- 6	Labor Day Rodeo–White Sulphur Springs	2	Apple Days—Hamilton 363-3338		Holiday Market Room–Lev
6	547-3366 Poplar Indian Days–Poplar 768-5155 or	2	Fort Missoula Festival–Missoula 728-3662 Oktoberfest II–Superior 822-4891	24 26	Conrad Christmas Stroll–C Christmas Stroll–Havre 26.
0	768-3351	2–3	Pioneer Power Day Threshing	26	Christmas City of the Nort
i	'Running of the Sheep' Sheep Drive–Reedpoint 326-2288	7 10	Bee–Lewistown 538-5236		Parade-Kalispell 758-2800
-6	Helmville Labor Day Rodeo–Helmville	7–10	6th Annual Glacier Jazz Stampede–Kalispell 862-3814	26	Christmas Stroll and Parad Lights–Sidney 482-1916
	288-3273 Labor Day Arts Fair–Red Lodge 446-1370	7–11/14	Five Years at the Refuge: A Retrospective Celebration–Miles City 232-0635	26	Christmas Stroll-Anaconda
-12	Undercover Gals Quilt Show-Hardin	8	Rhythm & Blues and Micro Brews–Billings	26 26	Holiday Parade–Billings 25 Holiday Light Parade–Gler
	665-2525	0.10	252-3610 Observator Helma 447 5221	26	Christmas Walk and Parad
0	Taste of Whitefish–Whitefish 862-3501 River's Edge Trail—Blues & Brews–Great	8–10 8–11	Oktoberfest–Helena 447-5221 Alta/Mont Railfan Weekend–Essex 888-5700		Lights–Forsyth 356-2134
O	Falls 453-0601 or 761-4966	9	Fiesta Days–Whitefish 862-3501	26	Crazy Mountain Christma 932-4678
0–11	Chinook Western Days-Chinook 357-3191	9	Fall Festival–Miles City 232-4420	26-27	Holiday Festival of the Art
0–11	Montana Old Time Fiddlers' Convention– Lewistown 736-5391 or 227-8633	9–16	NILE Stock Show and Rodeo–Billings 256-2495	26–28	587-2034 Renaissance Fair–Missoula
0–12	Big Sky Draft Horse Expo–Deer Lodge 846-3111	10	Columbia Falls Snowmobile Grass & Drag Races–Columbia Falls 892-PLAY	26–28	Artists and Craftsmen Chri Show–Kalispell 881-4288
0–12	Libby Nordicfest–Libby 293-4167	16	Tamarack Time!-Bigfork 837-4848	27	Holiday Fair–Anaconda 56
.0–12	NW Montana Arms Collectors' Gun Show- Kalispell 755-3980	16	Celebrate the Cowpoke through Poetry and Music–Hamilton 363-3338	27	Madison Valley Women's C Bazaar–Ennis 682-7705
0–12	Rendezvous & Trade Show–Missoula 442-4008	16–17	Glacier Golden Autumn Arts and Crafts Show and Sale–Essex 888-5700	29–12/3	Livingston Country Christ 222-0850
0–12	Whitefish Summer Games–Whitefish 863-2470 or 862-4035	17	Forest Grove Arts & Crafts Show–Forest Grove 538-3510		
.1	Montana State Chokecherry Festival–Lewistown 538-5436	22–12/3	Bald Eagle Migration–Helena 475-3128		FDOM MONTAL
1–12	Cottonwood Folk Festival–Great Falls 452-3462	23	Lewistown Craft Show & Sale–Lewistown 538-3640		FROM MONTAI
1–12	NW Montana Antique Power Ass'n Threshing Bee–Columbia Falls 862-7738	23	16th Annual Autumn Art & Craft Show–Helena 449-4790	The div	versity of events, places and pec as wide as the state itself. We h
2	Germanfest–Missoula 721-9620	23–24	Christmas at the Mansion–Kalispell 755-2166	taste o	f that diversity with this quarte n, my office offers these services
2	Historic Bell Street Bridge Day– Glendive 365-5601	30	Ghost Walks–Bannack 444-3750	Visual I	oducers. Materials
2	Hot Laps Mountain Bike Jam–Missoula		NOVEMBER	Color s are ava	lides, $8" \times 10"$ B/W photos, and silable for editorial use.
2	549-9777 or 543-3331 Utica Day Fair–Utica 423-5364	1–30	Cross-Country Fall Ski Camp–West Yellowstone 646-7701		Photographer Referrals put you in contact with many
13	Canyon Creek Battlefield Pipe Ceremony– Laurel 628-8105	5–6	6th Annual Holiday Art & Craft	talented phers.	l and experienced freelance writ
5–19	Ride the Russell Trail–Utica 423-5454	6	Show–Kalispell 449-4790 Winter Fair–Choteau 466-5340	We'll p	al Copy/Calendar of Events Trovide background information o
6–20	Testicle Festival-Clinton 825-4868	6	Big Timber Christmas Bazaar and Craft	many subjects. We also maintain a calc the entire state.	
7–18	Belgrade Fall Festival–Belgrade 388-1616	6	Show–Big Timber 932-4035 Wine and Food Factival Sidney 488 2357		ual Attention need the latest vacation guide
7–18	North American Indian Alliance Pow Wow- Butte 782-0461	7	Wine and Food Festival–Sidney 488-2357 Helmville Craft Bazaar–Helmville 793-5530	Montar	na, a liaison with other govern linformation to fit a specific stor
7–18	Threshing Bee-Choteau 466-2470	11–14	Christmas Collection–Great Falls 727-8255	to assis	
7–19	Havre Festival Days–Havre 265-4383	12–14	Huff's Antique Show and Sale–Billings		May-
3 9	Quilt Show-Broadus 436-2416 Highland Games Festival-Glasgow	13	628-4493 Specialty Fair–Malta 654-1436		Mary Boyle Publicity Co
2	228-2222	13	Country Christmas–Lewistown 428-2316	Untold	Story Leads From Montana is pu
0-24	Native American Awareness Week-	10.14	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		Promotion Division of the Montan

Holiday Food Festival & Seasonal Creations Craft Show–Billings 657-1269

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or editorial copy for lendar of events for

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